

Senate Bill 66

By: Senator Harp of the 29th

**AS PASSED**

**AN ACT**

To amend an Act to reconstitute the Meriwether County Board of Education, approved March 28, 1985 (Ga. L. 1985, p. 4611), as amended, so as to stagger the terms which members of the board are elected; to provide that members in office shall continue to serve for the remainder of their terms; to change vacancy provisions; to provide for related matters; to provide for submission of this Act to the United States Attorney General; to provide for an effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

**SECTION 1.**

An Act to reconstitute the Meriwether County Board of Education, approved March 28, 1985 (Ga. L. 1985, p. 4611), as amended, is amended by striking Sections 2, 3, and 5 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

**"SECTION 2.**

The Meriwether County Board of Education shall consist of five members.

**SECTION 3.**

- (a) The board members in office on the effective date of this Act shall serve out the terms to which they were elected.
- (b) Each member of the board shall represent one of the five education districts described in Section 4 of this Act, and the member representing each education district shall be elected solely by the voters who reside in that education district.
- (c) At the November, 2012, general election, board members representing Districts 1, 3, and 5 shall be elected to serve a term of office of two years beginning on January 1, 2013, and ending on December 31, 2014, and until their successors are elected and qualified. At the November, 2014, general election, successors for such board members shall be elected to serve a term of four years beginning on January 1, 2015, and ending on December 31, 2018, and until their successors are elected and qualified. Thereafter, successors to such board members shall be elected at the November general election immediately preceding

the end of their respective terms of office and shall take office on January 1 immediately following such election for a term of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

(d) At the November, 2012, general election, board members representing Districts 2 and 4 shall be elected to serve a term of office of four years beginning January 1, 2013, and ending on December 31, 2016, and until their successors are elected and qualified. Thereafter, successors to such board members shall be elected at the November general election immediately preceding the end of their respective terms of office and shall take office on January 1 immediately following such election for a term of four years and until their successors are elected and qualified.

(e) Each candidate for election to the board of education shall at the time of qualification for election be a resident of the education district such candidate is seeking to represent. The office of any member of the board of education who ceases to be a resident of the education district such member represents shall become vacant by operation of law as of the date of the change of residency.

(f) Each candidate for election to the board of education shall have resided within the Meriwether County School District for a continuous period of two years immediately preceding the date of the general election and shall at the time of qualification be a qualified voter of Meriwether County."

#### **"SECTION 5.**

Any vacancy in office upon the board which occurs for any reason other than expiration of term shall be filled according to the provisions of Code Section 20-2-54.1."

#### **SECTION 2.**

Pursuant to Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, it shall be the duty of the attorney of the Meriwether County Board of Education to submit this Act to the United States Attorney General for approval.

#### **SECTION 3.**

This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

#### **SECTION 4.**

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.